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Message Text

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44
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 OMB-01

OIC-04 DRC-01 /168 W
---------- 104129
R 201145Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0793
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2865

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SEATO
SUBJ: SEATO: GVN REQUEST THAT SEATO CONSIDER PARACELS ISSUE

REF: A. BANGKOK 1283
B. STATE 15405

1. WITH EXCEPTION OF FRANCE, ALL SEATO MEMBERS HAVE NOW
CONVEYED TO SEATO SECGEN THEIR POSITIONS RE SVN REQUEST
THAT SEATO CONSIDER PARACELS ISSUE. CONSENSUS IS THAT
SEATO NOT APPROPRIATE BODY TO ADDRESS CONFLICTING TERRITORIAL
CLAIMS. PHILIPPINES ONLY MBMER WHICH INFORMED SECGEN
THAT IT COULD AGREE TO CONSULTATION, "ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY,"
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IF THAT WERE MAJORITY VIEW. (FRENCH EMBOFF HAS ADVISED
SEATO THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY GIDANCE FROM PARIS

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RE THIS MATTER, BUT WAS CABLING TEXT OF PROPOSED REPLY
BY SECGEN (PARA 2 BELOW) TO FONOFF FOR APPROVAL.)

2. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED SECGEN REPLY TO GVN WHICH REFLECTS
AGREED EDITING BY PWG MEMBERS ON FEBRUARY 19 TO ENSURE THAT
IT CANNOT BE INTERPRETED AS TAKING,OR EVEN INFERRING, A
POSITION RE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE:

BEGIN TEXT -- I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S
LETTER OF 21 JANRY 1974 CONCERNING THE RECENT EVENTS IN
THE PARACELS ISLANDS. (PARA)

I HAVE CONSULTED MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND, ALTHOUGH CONCERN
WAS EXPRESSED OVER THE SITUATION, IT IS THE CONSENSUS THAT
SINCE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PARACELS ISLANDS IS NOT CLEARLY
ESTABLISHED IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR SEATO TO
CONSIDER THIS MATTER. MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ALSO NOTED THAT,
ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH 2, ARTICLE IV OF THE MANILA TREATY,
THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING MATTERS UNDER THIS ARTICLE MUST
BE TAKEN BY ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY. (PARA)

I, THEREFORE, EXPRESS MY REGRET THAT SEATO WILL BE UNALBE TO
CONSIDER THIS MATTER. (PARA)

I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO YOUR
EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE COUNCIL REPS WILL BE ASKED TO
APPROVE SECGEN'S REPLY AT THEIR NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 26,
REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL OF PROPOSED REPLY PRIOR
THAT DATE.
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To: STATE
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